

We claim:

1. A method of treating hyperactive sebaceous gland disorders by:
 - (i) topically applying a hydrophobic and/or lipophilic photosensitizer composition to skin tissue exhibiting symptoms of acne, and
 - (ii) exposing the tissue to energy at a wavelength capable of activating the photosensitizer.
2. A method according to Claim 1 wherein the disorder is selected from acne, seborrhea, seborrheic dermatitis, and sebaceous gland hyperplasia.
3. A method according to Claim 1 wherein the photosensitizer is selected from lipophilic photosensitizers.
4. A method according to Claim 1 wherein the photosensitizer is selected from hydrophobic photosensitizers.
5. A method according to Claim 1 wherein the photosensitizer is selected from 5-aminolevulinic acid and derivatives thereof, 5-aminolevulinic acid esters and derivatives thereof, porphyrins and derivatives thereof, methylene blue and derivatives thereof, bacteriochlorophyll and derivatives thereof, and combinations thereof.
6. A method according to Claim 1 wherein the photosensitizer is selected from 5-aminolevulinic acid, 5-aminolevulinic acid esters, chlorins, bacteriochlorins, isobacteriochlorins, phthalocyanine, naphthalocyanines, pyropheophorbides, sapphyrins, texaphyrins, tetrahydrochlorins, purpurins, porphycenes, phenothiaziniums, bacteriochlorophyll, bacteriochlorophyll derivatives, pro-porphyrins, porphyrins, and combinations thereof.
7. A method according to Claim 1 wherein the photosensitizer is selected from verteporfin, lemuteporfin, and combinations thereof.
8. A method according to Claims 1 wherein the composition has a viscosity at 20°C of from about 50 cps to about 50000 cps.

9. A method according to Claims 1 wherein excess photosensitizer composition is removed from the skin prior to application of activation energy.
10. A method according to Claim 1 wherein the hyperactive sebaceous gland disorder is acne and the treatment is repeated until the total number of acne lesions has been reduced by 5 30% or greater.
11. A method according to Claim 1 wherein the treatment is repeated at least once every six months.
12. A method according to any of Claims 1 to 9 wherein the treatment is repeated at least once every three months.
13. A method according to Claim 1 wherein at least 5 days is left before the treatment is 15 repeated.
14. A method according to Claim 1 wherein the hyperactive sebaceous gland disorder is acne and the treatment is combined with at least one other non-photodynamic treatment for acne.
- 20 15. A method according to Claim 14 wherein the non-photodynamic treatment is selected from topical treatments.
- 25 16. A method according to Claim 14 wherein the non-photodynamic treatment is selected from topical retinoids, oral retinoids, systemic antibiotics, topical or local antibiotics, oral contraceptives, topical anti-androgens, anti-progestins, blue light therapy, laser therapy, or combinations thereof.
- 30 17. A method according to Claim 14 wherein the non-photodynamic therapy is selected from topical retinoids.
18. A method according to Claim 1 wherein the activation energy is at least in part supplied by a light emitting diode device.

19. A method according to Claim 1 wherein the activation energy is at least in part supplied by a light emitting diode device wherein the device emits red and blue light.
- 5 20. Use of a hydrophobic and/or lipophilic photosensitizer composition for the treatment of hyperactive sebaceous gland disorders.
21. Use of a hydrophobic and/or lipophilic photosensitizer composition for the preparation of a medicament for the treatment of hyperactive sebaceous gland disorders.

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